

W A S H I N G T O N
H I G H E R
EDUCATION
C O O R D I N A T I N G B O A R D

January 2005

Proposed Rules

Minimum Freshman Admission Requirements

Background

Washington state statutes require the Higher Education Coordinating Board to define minimum freshman admission requirements for Washington's public universities and The Evergreen State College (RCW 28B.76.290). These requirements signal to students, parents and K-12 educators the academic preparation students need to succeed in college. They also inform high schools of the courses they must offer to ensure their students have the opportunity to gain admission, enroll in institutions of higher education, and earn bachelor's degrees.

Over the past several years, the higher education community has reached broad agreement that the current minimum freshman admission requirements are inadequate, and that more rigorous preparation is required for freshmen entering the state's colleges and universities to succeed in their studies and complete bachelor's degrees.

Since 2003, HECB staff have studied this issue and met with K-12 and higher education leaders to determine whether the current requirements should be revised, and if so, to develop a recommendation for revisions. Early in 2004, a work group made up of representatives from public baccalaureate institutions (and with input from K-12 stakeholders) recommended revisions to the current minimum admission requirements for freshmen, based on research and the institutions' recent experiences with entering freshmen.

HECB staff presented the proposal to the board's Education Committee on November 10, 2004, and to the full board on December 10, 2004. On December 10, the board approved the staff proposal and authorized a negotiated rule-making process to establish new freshmen admission requirements in the Washington Administrative Code.

Board Action Requested

After the December 10 board action, staff filed a notice of intent to adopt new rules with the Code Reviser's Office. The rule making process now requires that draft rules and details of scheduled public hearings be advertised in the Washington State Register and other appropriate media. At its January 27, 2005 meeting, the board will be asked to approve draft rules language for new minimum freshman admission requirements, and to direct staff to file the appropriate paperwork (Form CR 102) with the Code Reviser, including draft rules, and the dates, times and locations for scheduled public hearings. After taking public comment into account, the board will consider adoption of permanent rules during its regular meeting on June 23, 2005.

Proposed Rules

If adopted by the board, the rules would take effect for freshmen seeking admission to a public four-year college or university during and after the summer academic term of 2008. The proposed rules would bring four key revisions to the current minimum admission requirements:

- **Increase the high school mathematics requirement.** Currently, students must complete three credits of math in high school: algebra, geometry and intermediate algebra. This proposal would increase the mathematics requirement, allowing students to choose one of two options:
 - Successful completion of three credits of math through intermediate algebra or integrated math III, and one credit of elective math, algebra-based science, statistics, or similar courses. At least one of the four credits would need to be earned during the high school senior year;or
- Successful completion of math through pre-calculus.
- **Revise the high school science requirement.** Currently, students are required to earn two credits of science, of which one must be laboratory-based. The proposal would require two credits of laboratory-based science, of which one would require the student to understand and use algebra. In a 2000 resolution (00-11), the board approved this change for entering college freshmen in 2010. This proposal would advance that requirement to entering freshmen in 2008.
- **Require students in each year of high school to earn at least three credits in courses that are required for college admission.**
- **Eliminate the statewide college Admission Index,** a formulaic scoring and ranking system used to evaluate high school graduates based on their cumulative grade point averages and scores on the SAT or ACT college entrance exams. Students would still have to achieve at least a 2.0 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale and submit college entrance examination scores (SAT or ACT) to be considered for admission.

If, after a period of public review and comment, the board ultimately approves these changes or some modification of them, staff would work vigorously to communicate the new requirements to students, parents and schools in the years leading up to their implementation, and for as long as they remain in effect.

A draft of the proposed rules is attached for the board's review.

Next Steps

Upon approval of the draft language, board staff will file a notice of proposed rule making, along with the draft rules, with the state Code Reviser. The board will then hold five public hearings on the proposed rules:

Date	Time	City	Location
April 7, 2005	4 p.m.	Spokane	Washington State University Riverpoint Phase One Auditorium
April 12, 2005	3 p.m.	Des Moines	Highline Community College Library Board Room
April 19, 2005	4 p.m.	Ellensburg	Central Washington University Student Union Building
April 25, 2005	4 p.m.	Tacoma	Tacoma Community College Baker Room
May 3, 2005	4 p.m.	Vancouver	Washington State University Vancouver Rooms SS 129-130

The board also will accept written public testimony through May 20, 2005. Following a comprehensive review, the board will be asked to adopt the rules in their final form during their June 23, 2005 meeting. If approved, the new rules would be established in the Washington Administrative Code on August 7, 2005.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Higher Education Coordinating Board

- ☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 05-01-145 ; or
☐ Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR; or
☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

- ☒ Original Notice
☐ Supplemental Notice to WSR
☐ Continuance of WSR

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)

Higher Education Coordinating Board Minimum Requirements for Freshman Admission

Hearing location(s):

SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE

Submit written comments to:

Name: John McLain, Associate Director
Address: 917 Lakeridge Way, PO Box 43430,
Olympia, WA 98504
e-mail: admissionstandards@hecb.wa.gov
fax: (360)753-7808

by 5 p.m. May 20, 2005

Date of intended adoption: July 6, 2005

(Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Renae Watts by April 1, 2005

Renaew@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7800

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

No current rules exist. The Higher Education Coordinating Board governs freshman admission policies by a series of board resolutions and agency guidelines. These rules would bring four changes to the current admission policy requirements and for the first time make the admission requirements part of the Washington Administrative Code. The four changes are:

1. Increasing the high school math requirement from three credits to four;
2. Revising the science requirement to include two credits of laboratory based science, one of which must be algebra based;
3. Requiring admission applicants in each year of high school to earn at least three credits in courses required for college admission; and
4. Eliminating the statewide admission index, a formula for evaluating admission applicants that is based on standardized test scores and high school grades.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Research and the recent experiences of freshman students entering Washington public baccalaureate institutions has showed that the current minimum standards for admission , first adopted in 1988, no longer adequately prepare students for college-level study.

Establishing the admission standards in the Washington Administrative Code

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 28B.76.290 (1)

Statute being implemented: RCW 28b.76.290 (1)

Is rule necessary because of a:

- Federal Law? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Federal Court Decision? ☐ Yes ☒ No
State Court Decision? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, CITATION:

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

DATE: February 16, 2005

NAME: John F. McLain

SIGNATURE:

TITLE: Associate Director

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization)

Higher Education Coordinating Board

- ☐ Private
☐ Public
☒ Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting	John McLain	917 Lakeridge Way, Olympia, WA 98504-3430	(360) 753-7833
Implementation	(same)	(same)	(same)
Enforcement	(same)	(same)	(same)

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☐ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____
fax () _____
e-mail _____

☒ No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

The small business impact statement is not required according to RCW 19.85 and RCW 34.05.310 (4).

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

☐ Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____
fax () _____
e-mail _____

☒ No: Please explain:

The cost-benefit analysis is not required according to RCW 34.05.328 (5).

**Schedule of Hearings
Higher Education Coordinating Board
Requirements for Freshman Admission**

WSU Riverpoint Campus
535 E. Trent Avenue
Phase One Building —
Auditorium (SCLS 122)
Spokane, WA 99202
April 7, 2005 — 4 p.m.

Highline Community College
2400 S. 240th St.
Library Board Room
Des Moines, WA 98000
April 12, 2005 — 3 p.m.

Central Washington University
400 E. University Way
Student Union Building — Yakama Room
Ellensburg, WA 98926
April 19, 2005 — 4 p.m.

Tacoma Community College
6501 S. 19th Street
Baker Room
Tacoma, WA 98466
April 25, 2005 — 4 p.m.

Washington State University — Vancouver
14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Avenue
Rooms SS 129-130
Vancouver, WA 98686
May 3, 2005 — 4 p.m.

Chapter 250-83 WAC

REQUIREMENTS FOR FRESHMAN ADMISSION

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-010 Definitions. "Public baccalaureate institution" or "institution" means any college or university which is operated by the state of Washington and awards bachelor's degrees: The University of Washington, Washington State University, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Western Washington University, and any baccalaureate institution created or acquired by the state of Washington subsequent to the adoption of these rules and operated by the state of Washington to award bachelor's degrees.

"Freshman" means a student who has not enrolled in college course work after leaving high school, and who may or may not have earned college credits while in high school.

"Applicant" means a person seeking admission as a freshman to a public baccalaureate institution.

"Core courses" are those courses that are designed to prepare students for college and that applicants must complete to be considered for admission as freshmen to a public baccalaureate institution. The higher education coordinating board determines the academic subject areas in which applicants must complete core courses. Each local school district, in consultation with the higher education coordinating board, determines which of its individual course offerings meet the definition of a core course.

"High school credit" or "credit" shall be as defined by the state board of education in WAC 180-51-050.

"Algebra-based science course" means a science course that requires students to use the knowledge and skills generally obtained in the first year of high school algebra. An algebra-based science course requires concurrent enrollment in or successful completion of first year high school algebra.

"ACT assessment" or "ACT" means the college entrance examination published by ACT, Inc., Iowa City, Iowa.

"SAT reasoning test" or "SAT" means the college entrance examination published by the College Board, New York, New York.

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-020 Effective date. These rules take effect for all freshmen seeking admission to the state's public baccalaureate institutions during and after the summer 2008 academic term.

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-030 Replacement of previous admission guidance and policies. These rules supersede previously established higher education coordinating board guidance and policies governing minimum basic admission requirements and alternative admission requirements for freshmen.

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-040 Purpose. The purpose of the minimum admission requirements for freshmen is to ensure that:

✎ Freshmen selected to enroll at the state's public baccalaureate institutions are academically prepared for college;

✎ The amount of remedial instruction required for recent high school graduates is minimized; and

✎ Students and families understand that completion of a rigorous high school curriculum in high school is critically important for success in college.

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-050 Minimum requirements for freshman admission. Applicants seeking admission as freshmen to a public baccalaureate institution must:

(1) Successfully complete the following core courses:

✎ Four credits of English, including three credits of literature and composition; may include one credit of elective English, such as creative writing, journalistic writing, and English as a second language; and

✎ Four credits of mathematics, with at least one credit completed in the senior year of high school, including:

- One credit each of algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra or three credits of integrated mathematics through integrated mathematics III; and

- One credit that may include courses such as statistics, pre-calculus, an algebra-based science course, or an additional mathematics course beyond algebra; and

✎ Three credits of social science; and

✎ Two credits of laboratory science, including one credit of algebra-based biology, chemistry, or physics; and

✎ Two credits of the same foreign language, the same native American language, or American sign language; and

✎ One credit of fine, visual, or performing arts, or one additional credit in mathematics, English, social science, laboratory science, foreign language, native American language, or American sign language.

Students who successfully complete pre-calculus or mathematics analysis before high school graduation will be considered to have met the mathematics requirement.

Applicants who achieve proficiency on the mathematics section of the tenth-grade Washington assessment of student learning will be determined to have completed the first year of high school algebra and geometry, or integrated mathematics I and II.

Applicants who achieve proficiency on the reading and writing sections of the tenth-grade Washington assessment of student learning will be determined to have completed the first two years of high school core course requirements in English.

Applicants are encouraged to take additional core courses in high school when available.

(2) A minimum of three credits of core courses each year of high school including the senior year.

(3) Earn a minimum unweighted cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.

(4) Take the SAT reasoning test or the ACT assessment and submit examination scores to each institution where the applicant is applying for admission.

(5) Colleges and universities recognize that experiences and activities in addition to academic achievement can contribute to a successful college application, and that students with diverse experiences and backgrounds contribute to a healthy and vibrant higher education learning community. Therefore, institutions may consider factors such as students' grade point averages,

test scores, the overall strength of their high school curricula, and nonacademic characteristics such as their personal essays, community activities, personal circumstances or special talents. No more than fifteen percent of the freshmen enrolled annually at each institution may be deficient in their completion of core courses.

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-060 Exceptions to the minimum freshman admission requirements. International applicants are not required to provide SAT or ACT test scores. Other applicants unable to provide SAT or ACT test scores may petition the institution for a waiver. No more than five percent of freshmen enrolled annually at each institution may receive waivers from this requirement.

NEW SECTION

WAC 250-83-070 Authority and responsibilities of institutions. Each institution may establish additional requirements that exceed these minimum requirements for admission at that institution.

Each institution establishes the procedures applicants must follow and the deadlines that applicants must meet to be considered for admission at that institution.

Each institution establishes the processes by which applicants are selected for admission at that institution.

Institutions reserve the right to request additional information about the academic credentials presented by applicants for admission from high schools and other education providers.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-01

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board has statutory authority to establish minimum basic admission standards for freshmen entering the state public universities and The Evergreen State College; and

WHEREAS, Minimum admission standards provide information to students, parents and schools about the rigorous academic preparation that is required for success in college; and

WHEREAS, Washington's higher education community has reached broad agreement that the board's current minimum admission standards for freshmen, adopted in 1988, no longer reflect the level of academic preparation students need to perform at the college level; and

WHEREAS, The board at its December 10, 2004 meeting agreed to begin a rule-making process for the creation of proposed new minimum admission standards for freshmen; and

WHEREAS, Washington residents need to know, understand, and have the opportunity to comment on proposed admission standards;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the draft rules language for proposed new minimum admissions standards for freshmen entering a public four-year college or university in the summer of 2008 or later; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board will conduct three public hearings on the proposed rules — one in Spokane, one in Ellensburg, and one in Des Moines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That board staff will file the appropriate forms with the Code Reviser's office to publicize draft rule language and public hearing dates in the Washington State Register and other media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That before taking final action on the proposed rules during its June 23, 2005 meeting, the board will consider all public comment on the proposed rules submitted at the hearings or in writing, and may consider revisions to the proposed rules as needed.

Adopted:

January 27, 2005

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Gene Colin, Secretary